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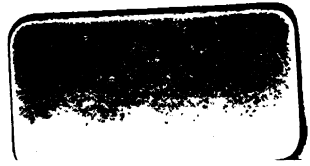
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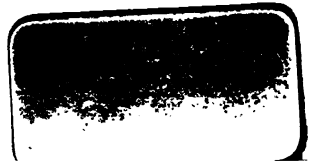
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Cor Cordis;

OR,

BREATHINGS OF THE HEART.



Vox Cordis;

OR,

BREATHINGS OF THE HEART;

Prayers and a Litany

FOR

THE CLOSET.



BY JOHN SANDFORD, B.D.,

VICAR OF DUNCHURCH.

OXFORD,

JOHN HENRY PARKER;

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TO THE

VENERABLE

WILLIAM SPOONER, M.A.,

ARCHDEACON OF COVENTRY,

IN THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER:

THESE PAGES ARE INSCRIBED,

WITH THE PRAYER

THAT THE GRACE OF HIS EXAMPLE,

AND

THE BLESSING PROMISED TO THE SEED OF THE RIGHTEOUS,

MAY DESCEND UPON

HIS CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

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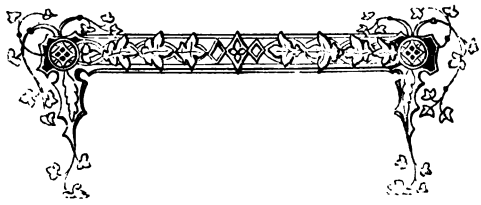
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A LITTLE OMISSION OF ANY EXERCISE OF PIETY CANNOT HAPPEN TO THEE, WITHOUT SOME LOSS AND CONSIDERABLE DETRIMENT, EVEN THOUGH IT BE UPON A CONSIDERABLE CAUSE.

Bishop Jeremy Taylor.



PREFACE.

PRAYER is the approach of the soul to God with its adoration, its confessions, its supplications, its thanksgivings. It implies an awe-struck reverence, and the deepest self-abasement. It is the aching conscience divulging its sins, the oppressed heart its anxieties and griefs: it is penitence imploring forgiveness, and need craving succour. Rapt devotion—thrilling awe—yearning after holiness—thirst for God—love, gratitude—the humiliation of the penitent—the affiance of the child. How intense the worship

which blends, and concentrates such emotions; and ushers us, with a sense of what He is, and what we are, into the felt presence of God!

As pourtrayed in Holy Scripture—the night-long wrestlings at Penuel—or the forty days and nights of seclusion on Horeb or in the wilderness—Prophets and Apostles, in trance or in ecstasy—Jesus, in orison and vigil, in the solitary place, or on the mountain apart; transfigured, or in agony—what an awe and absorbedness in the communion of the soul with God!

It is the following hard after God, the hanging upon God: crying to Him out of the deep—thirsting for Him, "as the hart panteth for the water-brooks"—waiting upon Him, as the eye of

the servant looking to the hand of the master, of the child to the parent. But in plaint, or in jubilee, in invocation, or thanksgiving, it is the breath of the soul.

It is questioned how far such converse with God can be maintained through the medium of a written form. A recent writer has described this as "stereotyped devotion." Yet the usages of the Church from the beginning—forms sanctioned by Christ and His immediate followers, worn by the hands, and blotted by the tears of the holiest saints—might be a sufficient answer. Blessed privilege! to address God in the very prayers of David, of Chrysostom, of Christ Himself; to be identified with saints and confessors, with fathers and brethren, not only in the spirit, but in the very words of their devotion!

To tie the pastor to a form, however devout and comprehensive, in his private ministrations —or the Christian in his secret approach to God, was never the intention of the Church. The spontaneous, unpremeditated, utterances of the heart are, doubtless, as acceptable to God, as they are salutary to the soul. And one of the benefits of Liturgies, and other approved forms of devotion is, that the heart has been tutored and attuned by them, and thus familiarized from infancy with the language and spirit of prayer.

But the young and the illiterate need such helps at all times—if only to instruct them what prayer is. Without them, experience teaches they would often not pray at all. And those, most fitted by mental and spiritual endowment to dis-

pense with forms, will admit, both that there are seasons and states of mind, when they are most needful, and that the effusions of their own hearts, more or less, assume a settled form: that having always the same confessions, the same wants, the same acknowledgments to express, they necessarily adopt a sameness of phraseology.

The demand for manuals of prayer in our day is one of many, most blessed, indications of revived light and life among us. Perhaps it is the most delightful proof of all. Nor is any apology required for an attempt to supply it. The following pages were prepared at the request, and for the use, of a relative. They are published in the hope and prayer that they may supply the same aid to others. They are

what their title denotes, "Breathings of the heart." May all who use them, find them so to be,

For Christ's sake!





Encouragement to Prayer.

THOU, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him; yea all such as call upon Him faithfully. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him: He also will hear their cry and will help them.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.

If ye abide in Me, and My word abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Seek ye the Lord and His strength; seek His face continually.

On First Rising.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

I laid me down, and slept, and rose up again; for the Lord sustained me.

My voice shalt Thou hear betimes, O Lord: early in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up.

Cause me to hear Thy loving-kindness in the morning; for in Thee do I trust. Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk: for I lift up my soul unto Thee.

Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy Spirit is good: lead me into the land of uprightness.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep me this day without sin.

While Dressing.

Choose ye this day, whom ye will serve.
Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.
Fervent in spirit: serving the Lord.

The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple.

For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me: He shall set me upon a rock.

Hear me, O Lord, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

Teach me Thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path because of mine enemies.

There be many that say, who will shew us any good? Lord, lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon me.

Mine eyes look unto Thee, O Lord God: in Thee is my trust: O cast not out my soul.

While Washing.

PURGE me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. O give me the comfort of Thy help again; and stablish me with Thy free Spirit!



12

When gathering clouds around I view,
And days are dark, and friends are few,
On Him I lean, who not in vain
Experienced every human pain;
He sees my wants, allays my fears,
And counts, and treasures up my tears.

If aught should tempt my soul to stray
From heavenly wisdom's narrow way;
To fly the good I would pursue,
Or do the thing I would not do;
Still He, who felt temptation's power,
Shall guard me in that dangerous hour.

If wounded Love my bosom swell,
Deceiv'd by those I prized too well,—
He shall His pitying aid bestow,
Who felt on earth severer woe;
At once betray'd, denied, or fled,
By those who shared His daily bread.

If vexing thoughts within me rise,
And sore dismay'd my spirit dies;
Still He who once vouchsafed to bear
The sickening anguish of despair,
Shall sweetly soothe, shall gently dry
The throbbing heart, the streaming eye.

When sorrowing o'er some stone I bend,
Which covers what was once a friend;
And from his voice, his hand, his smile,
Divides me—for a little while;
Thou, Saviour, mark'st the tears I shed,
For Thou didst weep o'er Lazarus dead.

And O, when I have safely past
Through every conflict—but the last;
Still, still unchanging, watch beside
My painful bed,—for Thou hast died;
Then point to realms of cloudless day,
And wipe the latest tear away.

When Dressed.

Read a Psalm, and the verses following, and may you imbibe the spirit they breathe:—and then may He, that heareth prayer, hear, and answer all your petitions. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Lord, Thou hast heard the desire of the humble: Thou wilt prepare their heart, Thou wilt cause Thine ear to hear.

When Thou saidst, Seek ye My face; my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

Thou shalt make thy prayer unto Him; and He shall hear thee.

Then kneel down in some spot more specially reserved for prayer, and as in the immediate presence of the Lord Almighty, say,

O blessed, glorious, and adorable Lord God, the Creator, Preserver, Redeemer, Sanctifier, Judge of man; in whom we live, and move, and have our being; who art the Source, and the end of

our existence,—enable me to approach Thee, with the awe which becometh Thy Majesty and my vileness. I am not worthy to draw near Thy footstool, or to take Thy name within my lips; for Thou art the High and Lofty One who inhabitest eternity, whose name is holy; and art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity,—and I am dust and ashes—insignificant in myself, doubly vile through sin. I am ashamed and confounded before Thee: and can only smite upon my bosom, and say, God be merciful unto me a sinner.

But Thou dwellest with him that is of an humble and contrite spirit: Thou art nigh unto him that is of a broken heart; and savest such as be of a contrite spirit. O give unto me that contrite spirit and broken heart! Thou encouragest us to pray: Thou hast taught us to ask, that we may receive—to seek, that we may find—

to knock, that unto us it may be opened. Thou art a God that hearest prayer! O give unto me the heart to pray: breathe into my soul the spirit of prayer. Teach me what Thou art, and what I am; that I may approach Thee as I ought, and worship before Thee in spirit and in truth.

Humble me, O God, in a sense of my unworthiness. For I have been a transgressor from the womb. Ever since I was born I have gone astray. I have never loved, nor served Thee as I ought: but have disobeyed Thy laws, and broken Thy covenant, and cast Thy words behind me: have forsaken Thee, the fountain of living waters, and hewed me out cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water. I have sown the wind, and reaped the whirlwind. In me is no health, no strength, no good thing. If Thou, Lord, wert extreme to mark what I have

done amiss, I could not stand. If Thou shouldest reward me according to my wickedness, I should perish from Thy presence.

But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared. Thou hast promised that he that confesseth and forsaketh sin shall find mercy. Thou hast so loved the world as to give Thy only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Thou hast consecrated a new and living way of access unto Thyself through His flesh. In His blood Thou hast opened up a Fountain which cleanseth from all sin. In Him we have with Thee an advocate, who is the Propitiation for our sins. He is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. All wretched and unworthy as I am in myself, may I be accepted in Him, the Beloved!

O give unto me deep, and unfeigned, and poignant repentance for the errors, ignorances and sins of my past life, and an humble, earnest, and adoring trust in my Redeemer. Cleanse me, O God, in His atoning blood. Hide me in His sacrificial wounds—clothe me in His spotless righteousness. For His sake forgive the multiplied and aggravated sins of my whole life—my deadness, and ingratitude, and forgetfulness of Thee: my manifold sins of omission and commission: all that I have left undone or done amiss: my sins of thought, and word, and deed: the offences which I recall with shame, the offences which I have forgotten. O blot them all out of Thy remembrance: cast them behind Thy back: drown them in the depths of the sea. May they never weigh me down in the hour of death, or appear against me on the judgment day.

But do Thou wipe them out and remember them no more. May they only serve to excite my repentance, to make me watchful, to urge me to amendment, to cause me to go softly all my days. Yes! Hide thy face, O God, from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.

Consider my weakness and my necessities, not to provoke Thy displeasure, but to excite Thy compassion. Of myself I am only inclined to evil, and averse to good. I am not sufficient of myself to think any thing as of myself; in myself I am all weakness, wretchedness, and sin. O give unto me the help of Thy Holy Spirit. Ig-

norant, I come to Thee to be taught—weak, to be strengthened—miserable, to be consoled—poor and destitute, to be enriched—sinful, to be healed. O send me help from Thy holy place. Give me that best gift, the Comforter.

May He dwell in my heart, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; —that I may be sanctified wholly—that my whole spirit, soul, and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Shed abroad, O God, Thy love in my heart by the Holy Ghost, that I may delight to do Thy will, and shun whatever might displease Thee; that I may be implicitly resigned to Thy appointments, and submissive to Thy control; that Thy will may be mine, O Lord. Give me Thy restraining grace to withhold me from sin, Thy quickening grace to excite me to duty, Thy directing grace

to guide and uphold me, Thy renewing grace to restore me to the Divine image. Enlighten my darkness; solve my perplexities; support my weakness; assuage my disquietudes; purify and elevate my affections; confirm my faith; sanctify my will; and mould my very nature into acquiescence and conformity to Thyself. Make me a partaker of the Divine nature, O God; enable me to study, and to do Thy will; and make good to me the promise "that Thou wilt dwell in us, and walk in us, and be our God, that we may be Thy servants." O be my God, and may I be Thy child! Give me the grace that is sufficient for me, the strength that is made perfect in weakness, that I may stand perfect and complete in all Thy will, O God.

Deliver me, O God, from those temptations to which I am peculiarly exposed, the sin which doth

so easily beset me. Preserve me from occasions of falling; and especially guard me from constitutional or contracted tendencies to evil. May a pervading sense of Thy presence solemnize my mind, subdue my passions, and influence all my words and actions. At home, and abroad, in society, and in solitude, in every scene and circumstance of life, may I set God before me. Though I must be in the world, yet may I not be of the world; remembering that here I have no continuing city, but must seek one to come; that I am dead, and my life is hid with Christ in God. O enable me to walk by faith and not by sight, to look to the world unseen, to wait for the Lord from heaven.

Fit me, O Lord, for intercourse with others. Give me a spirit of kindness, gentleness, and love. May I be more observant of my own faults, than conscious of those of others. May I abound

in that charity which suffereth long and is kind, which envieth not, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. May I be enabled to please my neighbour for his good to edification; to put no stumbling block in his way, but to win and to help him heavenwards. May I love; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. May I strive to make others good and happy; to relieve their sorrows, and multiply their joys in this life, and to unite them with myself in the pleasures that are at Thy right hand. May I study in all things conformity to my Saviour! Like Him, may it be my meat and drink to do the will of Him that sent

me. Make me diligent in my pursuits, self-denying in my enjoyments, ever on my guard against evil, ready to embrace opportunities of doing good. May I live the life I live in the body, by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. And may a sense of His unutterable goodness ever bind me to Him, in humble, heartfelt, adoring love. O may the mind be in me, which was in Him; the same equanimity in trouble, the same resignation to the divine will, the same tender and compassionate sympathy with the woes of others. May I be, as He was in the world. May I maintain a constant, lively, and heartfelt fellowship with Him in prayer, and service, and sacramental union. May I be ever looking and waiting for His appearing: and oh when He appeareth, may I appear with Him in glory! Amen and Amen.

Intercessory[a].

HEAR also, O heavenly Father, my intercessions for others, and especially for those who have most claim on my regard. Make me ever loving and dutiful to my parents, and anxious to fulfil and anticipate their wishes. Increase in them that godliness which hath promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. Support them in all their trials, and dissipate all their anxieties; console them in all their sorrows; succour and assist them in their spiritual conflicts; preserve Thy love in their hearts, and Thy fear before their eyes. Prosper them in all their undertakings. Comfort, protect, and bless them during life, and in the hour of death; and may neither things present nor things to come,

For Parents.

[a] Prayers to be used by parents and by married persons are given at the end of the volume.

be able to separate them from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For Brothers and Sisters.

Bless my brothers and sisters, and knit our hearts in mutual love. Correct in them what is amiss; encourage in them what is good. May they grow in grace, and in favour with God and man. May we bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. And as we are associated by the tie of consanguinity on earth, so may we be heirs together of the grace of life, and be endlessly united in heaven.

For Friends and Relations.

Bless all my friends and relations, all that love and pray for me, all who have a claim upon my sympathy and affection. Supply all their need out of the fulness of Christ. May nothing separate them from Thy love. Give them health of body, peace of mind, and such

temporal prosperity as seemeth good in Thy sight. Guide them with Thy counsel here, and hereafter receive them into glory.

For the Servants of the Family.

Bless the servants in this house. May they be the servants of God and disciples of Jesus Christ; and in all my intercourse with them, may I remember that I too have a Master in Heaven.

For the Queen.

Bless our Sovereign the Queen. May her throne be established in righteousness. Make her the nursing mother of her Church and people. Give her a heart to feel for, and a hand to relieve, the distressed. Bless her in herself, and in her consort: keep them both in thy perpetual fear and love; and crown them with glory and immortality.

For Fatherland.

Assuage the disorders, and heal the divisions of the land in which I

live. Make men of one mind in the Lord. Direct the counsels and strengthen the hands of the good, and defeat the designs of the wicked. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord: that as there is but one Body, and one Spirit, and one Hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart, and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For those in distress.

Have compassion, O Father of mercies, on the destitute and afflicted; on all that are in sickness, darkness, and distress; on widows and orphans, prisoners, exiles, and captives; on such as suffer from the rebukes

of conscience, or the hidings of Thy face; from a wounded spirit, or misplaced or unrequited love; from unkindness or persecution.

Relieve the needy: succour the tempted: bind up the broken-hearted: strengthen the feeble; teach the ignorant; confirm the strong; reclaim the wanderer; convert the wicked: make the prosperous humble and charitable, and the poor contented: and may all find consolation in Thy Gospel, and a home in Thy Church.

For the Church.

And do Thou bless, prosper, and enrich Thy Church in this land, and throughout the world. Diffuse its light, and enlarge its inclosures. Heal its divisions, repair its breaches; preserve or recover it from error. May its priests be clothed with righteousness, and its poor be satisfied with bread, and its saints rejoice and sing. May it

abound in the gifts, the graces, and the joy of the Holy Ghost; and at last be presented unto Thee, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but holy and without blemish. For Christ's sake.

For Pastors. Finally, do Thou bless *him*, O Lord, who ministers to me in holy things. Enlighten his judgment; sanctify his affections; correct and amend his faults; forgive his sins; qualify him for his sacred office, and prosper his labours. May he be assiduous in duty, fervent in spirit, wise to win souls. Make him a teacher of the ignorant, a counsellor of the perplexed, a comforter of the unhappy. May he save both himself and them that hear him. Preserve him in Thy fear and love all the day; and when his heart and his flesh faileth, O be Thou the strength of his heart, and his portion for ever.

Bless, sanctify and perpetuate, O God, my

human affections. May they be to me a means of comfort and edification, and a bond of union with Thee, O God. Allow me such intercourse with my friends on earth, as seemeth good in Thy sight: but however separated in this world, may we be ever one in Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, and in Thee, O Father. One in the hopes and consolations, and obedience of the Gospel; and at last one in the pleasures that are at Thy right hand for evermore.

And this for Jesus' sake.

Amen and Amen.

Now unto Him that is able to keep me from falling, and to present me faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To the only wise God our Saviour,
Be glory and majesty, dominion and power,
both now and ever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with me, and all I love, this day, and for evermore. Amen.

The Lord bless me, and keep me;
The Lord make His face shine upon me,
And be gracious unto me.
The Lord lift up His countenance
Upon me, and give me peace!

Before leaving your Room.

Christ. Thou must work the work of Him that sent thee;
The night cometh when no man can work.
Disciple. But O Lord, I know that the way of

man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. I am not sufficient of myself to think any thing as of myself: my sufficiency is of Thee. I would work out mine own salvation with fear and trembling: do Thou work in me both to will, and to do of Thy good pleasure.

Wherefore, O Lord, in mercy,

Do Thou shew me Thy ways; and teach me Thy paths.

Teach me Thy way, O Lord; and I will walk in Thy truth.

O knit my heart unto Thee, that I may fear Thy name.

Order my steps in Thy word; and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

O send out Thy light and Thy truth: let them lead me: let them bring me to Thy holy hill and to Thy tabernacle.

Incline my heart to perform Thy statutes alway, even unto the end.

Turn away mine eyes, lest they behold vanity; and quicken Thou me in Thy way.

Shut mine ears to evil; but incline them unto wisdom.

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; and keep the door of my lips.

Hold Thou up my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps slide not.

Preserve my going out, and my coming in,
From this time forth, for evermore.

Preserve me from all evil;
Yea do even Thou preserve my soul.

In Thee, O Lord, have I trusted;
Let me never be confounded.

I am Thine,
O save me.
Amen.



A Prayer to Jesus.

Blessed Jesus, who art the Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, and art exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance and forgiveness of sins,—to Thee I look for pardon, and relief, and assistance. I come to Thee, weary and heavy laden, seeking rest—sinful, craving forgiveness—weak and wholly unable to help and save myself, imploring Thy mercy, and grace, and intercession. O may my prayer enter into Thine ears, and be made unto Thee in an acceptable time; and in the multitude of Thy mercies, and the truth of Thy salvation, do Thou hear me.

I am, indeed, wholly unworthy; for I have requited Thy love with indifference, and Thy mercies with ingratitude. Like Peter, I have denied Thee—like the sons of Zebedee, I have forsaken Thee. I have been regardless of Thine anguish; and have stood aloof from Thy cross. Often by my sins have I broken Thy covenant, and disowned my allegiance to Thee, O Jesus. Well mightest Thou turn from me in displeasure, and close Thine ears to my petitions. I can only say "Son of David, have mercy upon me." "Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean." "Lord, save me, or I perish." My only pleas are Thy mercies, and my miseries—Thy fulness, and my necessities—Thy merits, and my sins—my deserts, and Thy sufferings. My only hope is in Thy sensibility as man, Thy benignity as God. Thou, O Jesus, hast Thyself filled my mouth with argu-

ments. I plead Thy own promises and invitations; Thy recorded mercies; Thy sacrificial sufferings; the purpose and the success of Thy mission to our world; Thy intercession now at the right hand of God; Thy very nature as man, and all Thy human sympathies and affections. For Thou hast invited the weary and the heavy laden to come unto Thee: Thou hast told us, that Thou didst come to seek and to save what was lost. Thou hast proclaimed Thyself the Healer of the broken-hearted, the Deliverer of the captive, the Opener of blind eyes, the Liberator of them that are bruised. Thou art set before us in Scripture as the Saviour to the uttermost of all that come to God through Thee: Thou hast left it on everlasting record, that him that cometh unto Thee, Thou wilt in no wise cast out.

Thou art Thyself the Mediator between us and

our offended God. Thou hast Thyself interposed to save us. For our transgressions wert Thou wounded; for our iniquities wert Thou bruised; with Thy stripes are we healed. Thou didst give Thy life a ransom for many. Thou didst suffer, the Just for the unjust, to bring us to God. For us Thy meritorious obedience, Thy vicarious anguish, Thy spontaneous sacrifice. When Thou didst ascend up on high, and lead captivity captive, and receive gifts for men, it was for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them. Thou art interceding for us now at the right hand of God. O forsake not the work of Thine own hand.

May Thy merits, O Saviour, countervail mine offences, Thy own mercies plead in my behalf. Thy recorded benignity emboldens me. I would make mention of Thy loving-kindness to others.

For Thou wert the Saviour of all that came to Thee. Thou didst not quench the smoking flax, nor break the bruised reed. None ever came to Thee in misery, and were not consoled; or in destitution, and were not relieved: or with a confession and renunciation of sin, and were rejected. Every variety of human suffering found with Thee pity and redress. Thou didst feed the hungry, cleanse the leper, heal the sick, restore the blind, the deaf, the dumb, the impotent, the paralytic. Thou didst raise the dead, cast out devils, forgive sin. In Thee the widow, the stranger, and the fatherless found a helper. Thou wert the Comforter of the bereaved, and the Friend of the friendless. Thou didst weep by the grave of Lazarus, and comfort Martha and Mary, and restore Thy faithless disciples, and speak peace to Magdalene, and carry the penitent thief to paradise.

And Thou art the same yesterday, to day, and for ever. O cast not out my soul. Speak to me, as to the sick of the palsy, "Thy sins are forgiven thee;" or as to her who was a sinner, "Go in peace." Lay hold on me, as on Thy sinking disciple. Say unto me, I am thy salvation.

Wash me, blessed Saviour, in Thy precious blood. Hide me under the shadow of Thy wings: present my prayers before the throne of heaven: intercede Thyself in my behalf. Maintain Thou my cause, my Lord, and my God.

By Thy familiarity with our sufferings; Thy sufferings in our stead: by Thy hunger and thirst, and wanderings, and weariness: by Thy anguish in the garden, and Thy passion on the cross: by the cruel mockings, and scourgings; the shame, and spitting; the nails and the spear: by human desertion, and Divine dereliction: by Thine un-

known agonies and bitter cry in death—O Sacrifice for sinners, Saviour of the lost, have mercy upon me.

Thou hast borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. Thou hast experienced all our woes; and art acquainted with all our necessities. Thou wert in all things like as we are, yet without sin. And Thou art touched with the feeling of our infirmities. In that Thou Thyself hast suffered, being tempted, Thou art able to succour them that are tempted. Thou knowest our nature; and still wearest our nature. By Thy sense of our weakness; Thy fellowship in our sufferings; Thy sympathy with us as the Seed of the woman, the Brother of our race; Thou Son of God, and Son of man, have mercy upon me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; O seek Thy servant.

Send Thy Holy Spirit to reclaim me, to deepen my repentance, to confirm my faith, to inflame my gratitude, to fix my resolves, to make sin hateful, and holiness my delight, to conform me to Thine own similitude. O make me like unto Thyself, blessed Jesus. Enable me to study Thy perfections, to follow Thy steps, to imitate Thy example. Give me a tender heart, a pitying eye, an open hand. May I be, as Thou wert in this world. To me, may to live be Christ, to die be gain. O be Thou my guide, my guardian; my strength in weakness, my support in trial; my consolation, and my hope, in my last conflict. Keep me by Thine own almighty power, through faith, unto salvation. May I be ever found in Thee, O Jesus; for Thou art my Rock, and my Refuge, and my Peace. In the hour of trial, the article of death, and the day of

judgment, do Thou remember me. And O may my lot at last be amongst those, who have washed their robes, and made them white in Thy blood; and therefore are before the throne.

For Thy mercies sake,
O Jesus!



Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Blessed Comforter! Spirit of love, light, and peace, I adore Thee as the author and giver of life, as the source and promoter of all good. Without Thee nothing is holy, nothing is strong. O come and take possession of my heart: there reign in sole and sovereign supremacy: there subordinate every thought, and wish, and affection to my Saviour. Sanctify me wholly; make my spirit, soul, and body, fit receptacles for Thyself.

I am alas! unworthy to receive Thee. I have grieved Thee, and resisted, and rebelled against Thee: have been unmindful of Thy presence, and impatient of Thy rule, and inattentive to Thy holy

suggestions. I have never cherished, nor obeyed Thee as I ought; but have soiled my baptismal purity; and profaned Thy temple in my body and my heart; and done many things to offend and estrange Thee. I have wounded and vexed Thee, O blessed Spirit; and but for Thy long-suffering and placability, and a love as infinite as my unworthiness, I must have provoked Thee to forsake me; and for ever quenched Thee.

I am ashamed, and confounded before Thee. I confess my vileness and infatuation. I bemoan my ingratitude and perverseness, my unbelief and hardness of heart, my insensibility to Thy benignity, and wretched return to Thy favours. I offer Thee the sacrifice of a troubled spirit, a broken and a contrite heart.

O restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and resume Thy dwelling within me. Without

Thee I must be for ever ignorant, helpless, sinful, miserable. For I know nothing of myself: I can do nothing of myself: of myself I am altogether inclined to evil, and indisposed to good. In myself I have nothing, but the seeds of sinfulness and destruction. All my wisdom, all my strength, all my grace and consolation, are from Thee. Thou workest in me, both to will and to do, of Thy good pleasure. Without Thee I can neither know God, nor love God, nor obey God. Thou art the Enlightener of our understandings, the Purifier and Reclaimer of our hearts, the Restorer of our nature. To Thee we are indebted for every ray of comfort, and every principle of virtue. Without Thee we can know neither the Father nor the Son; and the mercies and merits of both would profit us nothing. It is Thy blessed office to reveal the Saviour; to

apply His sacrifice and merits to the soul; to bestow the gifts which He has purchased. Thou alone canst shew us our necessities, and His fulness; our sins and His merit; our miseries and His mercies; our ruined condition without Him, and His ability and readiness to save us. Thou alone canst make His office intelligible, His offers welcome, His person dear, His sacrifice available. Thou must overcome our rebellion, pacify our conscience, reconcile us to God and to ourselves, restore us to the nature we have lost, and the inheritance we have forfeited. O do Thou apply to me the mercies of God in Christ Jesus. By Thee, through Christ, may I have access to the Father. Sprinkle the blood of Christ upon my conscience, send the spirit of the Son into my heart, crying Abba, Father. Shed abroad the love of God in my heart by Thine own indwelling.

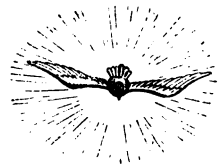
O renew my fallen nature, purify my distempered heart, subdue and sanctify my unruly will; and make me ever attentive and obedient to all Thy holy inspirations. Cleanse me from all my idols; purify me from all defilements. Create in me a clean heart; and renew a right spirit within me. O give me the comfort of Thy help again: and stablish me with Thy free Spirit.

May Thy inspiration guide me; Thy grace quicken, and yet restrain me; Thy comforts console me; Thy fruits of goodness, and righteousness, and truth, abound in me. O may mine be Thy graces and beatitudes of love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Led by Thee may I think no evil: led by Thee may I be the child of God.

Make me holy in all my thoughts, and righteous in all my ways. Give me patience in trou-

ble, humility in success, resignation in disappointment, constancy in trial and temptation, and victory over my ghostly enemies. Give me sorrow for past sins, and earnest purposes of amendment; thankfulness for mercies, and a heart to welcome and improve all Thy dispensations. Give me the temper and spirit of the blessed. Qualify me for their scenes and employment. And at last bring me to the joys at God's right hand, which Christ hath purchased, and for which Thou, O blessed Spirit, wilt have prepared me.

Amen and Amen.



Litany of Jesus.

Jesus, Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Take away my sins.

Jesus, who camest to seek and to save that which was lost,

Seek and save me.

Jesus, who art exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance and forgiveness of sins,

Give me repentance and forgiveness of sins.

Jesus, who hast invited the weary and heavy-laden to come unto Thee, that Thou mayest give them rest,

Give me rest.

Jesus, who art the true Light, that lighteth every man that cometh into the world,

Give me light.

Jesus, who ever livest to make intercession for us,

Intercede for me.

Jesus, who art touched with a feeling of our infirmities,

Feel for me.

Jesus, who having been tempted, knowest how to succour them that are tempted,

Succour me in my temptations.

Jesus, who of God art made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption,

Be all this to me.

Jesus, who art the Resurrection and the Life,

Give me life.

Jesus, who hast promised, that him that cometh unto Thee Thou wilt in no wise cast out,

Cast not out me.

Jesus, whose blood cleanseth from all sin,

Cleanse me from all sin.

Jesus, Physician of the soul,

Heal my soul.

Jesus, Comforter of the afflicted,

Comfort me evermore.

Jesus, Refuge of the destitute,

Shelter me.

Jesus, Hope of all the ends of the earth,

Be my hope.

Jesus, Desire of all nations,

Be my desire.

Jesus, Liberator of the captive,
Deliver me.

Jesus, wonderful Counsellor,
Counsel me.

Jesus, Author and Finisher of our faith,
Confirm and perfect my faith.

Jesus, Captain of our salvation,
Conquer for, and in me.

Jesus, Prince of peace,
Give me peace.

Jesus, Man of sorrows,
Assuage my sorrows.

Jesus, Paschal Lamb,
Sprinkle me with Thy precious blood.

Jesus, mighty God,
Be evermore my God.

Jesus, the Bread that came down from heaven,

Feed me with Thyself.

Jesus, Image of the invisible God,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Brightness of the Father's glory,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, First-born of every creature,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, who sittest at the right hand of God,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, who wast dead, and art alive again, and hast the keys of death and of hell,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, who art to judge the quick and the dead,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, who hast all power committed unto Thee in heaven, and in earth,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, who art gone away to prepare a place for us, and wilt come again to receive us unto Thyself,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, who hast ascended up on high, and hast received gifts for men, for the rebellious also,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, who art the Shepherd that gavest Thy life for the sheep,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, who art the Beginning and the End,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Son of David,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Son of Abraham,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Seed of the woman,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Angel of the covenant,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Lion of the tribe of Judah,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Door of the sheepfold,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, true Vine,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Word of God,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Shiloh,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Emmanuel,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Son of God,

Have mercy upon me.

Jesus, Son of man,

Have mercy upon me.

From all my sins and offences, and from the punishment due to them,

Good Lord, deliver me.

From hardness of heart, and impenitence, and from contempt of God's holy word and commandment,

Good Lord, deliver me.

From all fretfulness and impatience; from vanity and pride; from self-indulgence and neglect of others,

Good Lord, deliver me.

From the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eye, and the pride of life,

Good Lord, deliver me.

From fear of man, and forgetfulness of God; from the snares of Satan, and the corruptions of my own heart,

Good Lord, deliver me.

From irreverence and indevotion, from profaning the mysteries of religion, and the means of grace; from repining at Thy dispensations, neglect of Thy warnings, and thankless receipt, or abuse, of Thy mercies,

Good Lord, deliver me.

From a proud, irascible and imperious spirit; from self-confidence and contempt of others; from the love of this present world, inordinate

affections and sensual appetites; and from neglect of the world unseen,

Good Lord, deliver me.

From terrors of conscience; from the fear of death; from unrepented sin; from my ghostly enemies,

Good Lord, deliver me.

From trampling Thy mercies under foot; and counting the blood wherewith I was sanctified an unholy thing; and doing despite unto the Spirit of Grace,

Good Lord, deliver me.

From the hidings of Thy face; from unpreparedness for death; from distraction and distrust in my last conflict; from the wrath of God and the damnation of hell,

Good Lord, deliver me.

By Thy invitations and Thy promises; by Thy merits and Thy mercies; by Thy servitude and suffering while on earth; by Thy tenderness as man, and Thy majesty as God; by Thy baptism, fasting, and temptation,

Good Lord, deliver me.

By Bethlehem, Gethsemane, and Calvary; by the crown of thorns, and the cruel scourge, and the robe of scorn, and the shame and spitting; by the nails and the gall, and the spear; by Thine unknown agony, and bitter passion,

Good Lord, deliver me.

By Thy body broken, and Thy blood shed for me; by the sacramental memorials of Thy love unto death; by Thy coming to save, and Thy coming to judge; by Thy burial, and resurrection,

and ascension, and intercession; and by all the graces of the Holy Ghost,

Good Lord, deliver me.

In prosperity and adversity; in wealth and poverty; in sickness and in health; in comfort and distress; in every time of trouble and of need,

Good Lord, deliver me.

In weakness and temptation; when under provocations and reproaches; in the loss of friends; when love is cold, and faith faint; in my downfalls and declensions; in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver me.

I, a sinner, beseech Thee, O Christ, to save me.

That it may please Thee to cleanse me from my sins, and to mortify my corruptions; to illuminate my judgment, and to sanctify my heart;

to put the fear of God before mine eyes, and the love of God within my heart; to imbue me with Thy Holy Spirit, and to conform me to Thine own example;

I beseech Thee to hear me, good Lord.

That it may please Thee to instruct me in my duty, and to enable me to perform it; to give me a tender conscience, and an earnest spirit; to uphold me in the slippery ways of the world, and give me sterling integrity of heart; to save me from the enmity of men, from the malice of Satan, from my own faults and follies; to support me in the hour of death, and receive me into the unseen world; to enable me to confess Thee before men; and to confess me before the angels of God.

I beseech Thee to hear me, good Lord.

Keep me as the apple of Thine eye;
Hide me under the shadow of Thy wings.

In the hour of death,
In the day of judgment,
Save me, O Jesus!

Son of God, I beseech Thee to hear me.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Grant me Thy peace.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon me.

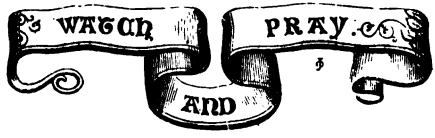
O Christ, hear me.
Lord, have mercy upon me.
Christ, have mercy upon me.
Lord, have mercy upon me.

Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

O Lord, hear my prayer, and
Let my cry come unto Thee.
Amen and Amen.







PART II.

Evening Prayer.

Before you retire to rest, at night, after asking for the assistance of God's Holy Spirit, study some portion of Holy Scripture: and to do so profitably, pause at intervals, and turn what you read into prayer, imploring to be kept from the evils denounced, and enriched with the graces enjoined or described, and crowned with the blessings promised

The Lord hath commanded His loving-kindness in the day time, and in the night season also my song shall be of Him, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

O let my prayer be set forth in Thy sight as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

I will remember Thee in my bed, and meditate on Thee in the night watches.

Because Thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice.

AND NOW,

WATCH THYSELF, COUNSEL THYSELF, REPROVE THYSELF, CENSURE THYSELF, AND JUDGE THYSELF IMPARTIALLY. WHATEVER THOU DOEST TO OTHERS, DO NOT NEGLECT THYSELF: FOR EVERY MAN PROFITS SO MUCH AS HE DOES VIOLENCE TO HIMSELF

Self-Examination.

Christ. Stand in awe and sin not: commune with thine own heart, and in thy chamber, and be still.

Examine thyself: prove thyself: for God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Disciple. O Lord, Thou hast searched me out, and known me: Thou knowest my down sitting, and mine up rising; Thou understandest my thoughts long before. Thou art about my path, and about my bed: and spiest out all my ways. For lo! there is not a word in my tongue; but Thou knowest it altogether.

Therefore

Examine me, O Lord, and prove me: try out my reins and my heart. Search me, O Lord, and know my heart. Try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me; and lead me in the way everlasting.

For Thine own sake,

O Saviour!

What have I done amiss this day, in thought, word, or deed?

What duty, or opportunity of doing, or increasing good, have I neglected?

If I have done a wrong, am I sorry, and willing to make amends? If I have received a wrong, do I forgive it for Christ's sake?

What mercies in my own person, or in that of my friends have I received?

Prayer.

Blessed Lord God, who art the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, I adore Thee, as the source and centre of all good, and the giver of every gift to the children of men. I desire to approach Thee, with an humbling sense of my own unworthiness, but with an adoring acknowledgment of Thy love in Jesus

Christ. O teach my heart to feel, my lips to proclaim Thy goodness. Take from me the stony heart, and give me an heart of flesh. Penetrate, and imbue my soul with a sense of Thy goodness. For how multiplied and manifold are Thy mercies to all; how infinite and undeserved Thy benignity to myself! To Thee I am indebted for every gift, and every deliverance, for the enjoyment of countless blessings, for preservation from as innumerable evils. By Thee, I have been upholden ever since I was born. Thou art He that took me out of my mother's womb. Thou wert my hope, when I hanged yet upon my mother's breasts. To Thee am I beholden for all the comforts of this life, and all the hopes of a better; for sacramental fellowship with Thyself; for admission into Thy fold, and adoption into Thy family; for all the means of grace, and all the

ordinances of religion. How shall I recount, or requite Thy mercies, O my God! For the blood and merits of Thy dear Son; for the gifts and graces of Thy Holy Spirit; for preservation from sin, and recovery from sin; for prolonged and unexampled forbearance, under my provocations and backslidings; for a mercy infinite as my demerits, and co-extensive with my need, ever new, and ever abounding; for all Thine infinite and unwearied love; for rebukes of conscience; for fatherly correction; for disappointing schemes that would have been hurtful to me, as well as for abounding benefits,—my soul blesses Thee, O God!

Here recount any special mercies.

When I recall my poor returns, my actual sins, and frequent omissions, my impatience under Thy reproof, my much forgetfulness, and abuse of

Thy mercies, I am confounded;—I have no words to express either Thy goodness, or mine own unworthiness. "I have sinned against heaven, and before Thee, and am no more worthy to be called Thy child." "O God, be merciful unto my sins, for they are great." "They are more in number than the hairs of my head: my heart faileth me." Do Thou give me true contrition of soul. Cause me, O God, to hate all sin; more especially that to which I may be myself most tempted and disposed: and do Thou send Thy Holy Spirit, to knit my heart unto Thy statutes, to confirm my purposes of amendment, to enable me to set Thee alway before me and to do always such things as are pleasing in Thy sight.

O shew me Thy love in Christ; and may this love embrace, sanctify and save me! Pardon and accept me, O God, in Him, the Beloved! May

His blood cleanse me, His merits plead for me, His Spirit enlighten, subdue, and sanctify my soul. May I study, love, and adore His perfections; and imitate His example. O make me like Thy blessed Son. May I see all things in the light of His cross. By it, may the world be crucified unto me, and I unto the world. May I bear its impression on my heart. May it be my light and my model, my consolation and my trust. In it alone may I glory and confide.

Give me, O God, a proper sense of my condition in this world. May I ever feel that in the midst of life I am in death, that life itself is but a preparation for eternity. May I know my duties, and my danger of neglecting them; my privileges, and the responsibilities they entail. May I see all things now, as I soon shall, in the light of eternity; this world in its transitoriness, its hollowness and

its vexation; the next in its tremendous and everlasting importance, and its close proximity. May death and judgment, heaven and hell, be constantly in my thoughts. May I live as knowing that the Judge is at the door. May my misspent hours, my neglected opportunities, my too eager pursuit of this world, my neglect of things unseen, be forgiven for Christ's sake. But may I ever remember them, to excite my penitence, to provoke my diligence, to make me watchful, prayerful, distrustful of myself, and dependent on my Saviour.

Teach me, O God, so to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom. May I remember that as I lie down to rest now, I must soon lie down in the grave. And may I so improve my time, and occupy my talents, that the day of death may not overtake me, as a thief in

the night; nor the day of judgment find me unprepared. But may I stand, with my loins girded, and my lamp burning; and wait for the Lord from heaven. And when my days are numbered, and my course is ended, upon earth, may I fall asleep in Jesus, and wake up after His likeness, and be satisfied with it.

And do Thou, O blessed Mediator between God and the guilty, perpetual and prevailing Intercessor, present these my prayers, and render them acceptable. To Thee I ever flee for advocacy; for Thou hast dwelt among us, and art ever near us. Thou wert clothed with all the sinless infirmities of our nature, and hast still a human form and a human heart. Thou art the Way, and the Truth, and the Life, by whom alone we approach God. In Thee we see the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image

of His person; but it is a brightness veiled, and an aspect that invites us. O Jesus, name of sweetness and of power! who lovest us and gavest Thyself for us, hear my prayer. Forgive my sins: help my infirmities: out of Thy fulness give me grace: out of Thy riches relieve my poverty. I am Thine, O save me. Forgive my coldness, my ingratitude, my unbelief. Redeem Thou me from all iniquity, and purify me unto Thyself, that I may be zealous of good works. May Thy love kindle mine, and constrain me to live no longer unto myself, but unto Thee. May I love Thee, because Thou hast loved me. May I believe on Thee, that I may not come into condemnation. May I feed on Thee, that I may live by Thee. May I follow Thee, that I may not walk in darkness, but may have the light of life. May I serve Thee, that where Thou art, I may be also.

O may my soul ever wait on Thee; for of Thee cometh my salvation. And when I am dissolved, may I be with Thee, O Christ, for ever.

Blessed Spirit, who intercedest for us with groanings which cannot be uttered, forgive my sins, and help mine infirmities. Pardon whatever I have done contrary to Thy holy suggestions this day, and during my whole past life. Too often have I neglected, resisted, and grieved Thee. O be not provoked to forsake me; but continue to me Thy divine presence, Thy holy inspirations. Lead me into all truth, and to all holiness. Purge me from whatever is evil; and increase in me whatever, as coming from Thyself, is good. Illuminate, direct, control, purify, and comfort me. Dispel my illusions, mortify my corruptions; in the multitude of the sorrows that I have in my heart, may Thy comforts refresh my soul. O

mould me to the divine will, assimilate me to the divine nature; invest me with every needful grace and gift. May I cherish Thee as my chiefest good: may I possess Thee as my everlasting portion. O fit me for the day, and save me in the day of Christ; witness then with my spirit, that I am the child of God; lift up the light of Thy countenance upon me, and give me peace for evermore.

And, now, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, three divine persons in one, undivided, Godhead, into Thy hands I commend my spirit. O accept, acknowledge, keep me Thine for ever. From all enemies, ghostly and bodily; from evil thoughts; from unseen dangers; from the perils of the night, and the powers of darkness, good Lord deliver me. May my sleep be sweet and healthful; when waking may I remember Thee. And at

last, may I be partaker of that joyful resurrection, when I shall lie down no more; but be with Thee O Father, and Thee O Son, and Thee O Holy Ghost, to love, and magnify, and adore Thee, world without end. Amen.

As you lie down in bed, say.

I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest: for it is Thou, O Lord, only that makest me dwell in safety; and into Thy hands I commend my spirit: for Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, Thou God of truth.

If you awake in the night, fill up the interval with holy thoughts and aspirations: recall, and ask pardon for your sins: remember them you have loved, and lost; pray God for mercy in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment..

Amen.



Prayer to be used by a Married Person.

O LORD, who art the source and the centre of all unity, hear me in behalf of *him* whom Thou hast given to be my partner and my help-meet, with whom in the holy bands of matrimony I am made one. For the support and solace thus afforded me; for encouragement and assistance in my duties; for sympathy in joy and sorrow; for all the blessings of which marriage was ordained by Thee to be the channel, I thank Thee, O God.

Do Thou sanctify a connexion, which, as it was by Thee appointed, and in Thee begun, to be happy, must be continued in Thy faith and fear. O may we never be permitted to undervalue, or profane so great a blessing; to forget its source and its design; or fail to improve it to Thy glory,

and our own salvation. But may we ever seek Thy blessing on our union; and honour Thee in this Thy own appointment.

Teach us, O Lord, the mystery of which marriage is the type; and thus knit Thy servants to Thyself, and to one another, in bonds which shall never end. Incorporate us evermore in the mystical body of Thy Son Jesus Christ. May we have one Lord, one Faith, one God and Father. May we be one in Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, and in Thee, O God. One in faith and practice, and one in the joys that are for evermore.

Make us of one mind in the Lord. May we be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment. Enable us to cherish the spirit, and cultivate the graces, which will ensure Thy blessing. In the consciousness of mutual infirmity, O implant in us an unselfish

spirit, that we may feel that it is more blessed to give than to receive, to yield than to exact; and may severally find our own happiness in seeking that of the other. May we bear one another's burthens, and so fulfil the law of Christ; in honour preferring one another; looking not at our own things, but at the things of the other. May we be helpers of one another's joy, and heirs together of the grace of life. May our longer and more intimate knowledge of one another, instead of weakening, only increase our mutual affection,—the love of our youth be only purified and perfected, as years revolve,—our sympathy in suffering only draw us closer to Thee, O God, and to one another. And O! in wealth and poverty, in health and sickness, in prosperity and adversity, may we ever recall our obligations, and strive to keep the vow and covenant betwixt us made.

Thus obeying Thy will, and alway being under Thy protection, may we abide in Thy love unto our lives' end. O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep us; mercifully with Thy favour look upon us; and so fill us with all spiritual benediction and grace, that we may so live together in this life, that in the world to come we may have life everlasting.

Amen and Amen.



Prayer to be used by a Parent.

Look, O Lord, in mercy upon my children, whom Thou hast given me to bring up in Thy nurture and admonition, and to rear for eternity. May the purpose for which they were born into the world be ever in my mind; and O do Thou counteract the evil bias they inherit from myself.

I bless Thee, O God, in their behalf. For their early admission into covenant with Thyself; for their inestimable privileges as members of Christ, and children of God, and inheritors of the kingdom of heaven; for whatever in them is in accordance with their privileges and destination; for every gracious temper and holy disposition; for whatever hath promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come;

for Thy fatherly care of them, and Thy fatherly corrections; for their health of body and mental endowments; for their preservation to this very hour, my soul blesses Thee, O God.

O do Thou continue unto them Thy loving-kindnesses and tender mercies. Do Thou enlighten their understandings, and purify their hearts. Do Thou foster in them all that is good, and repress all that is evil. May they grow in favour both with God and man, and resemble more and more their incarnate Lord.

May Thine eye watch them, Thy arm protect them, Thy Spirit guide, console, and bless them. O keep them as the apple of Thine eye: hide them under the shadow of Thy wings. From the evil that is without, and the evil that is within them; from the assaults of Satan, and the corruptions of their own hearts; from the enmity of

bad men and devils; from the contamination of vice, and the contagion of bad example; from the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eye, and the pride of life; from sickness, and disease, and casualty, and death; from whatever may sully Thy image in their hearts, or separate them from Thy love—O God deliver them.

May they be fitted for Thy service here, and Thy presence hereafter. O do Thou enable them to set Thee always before them; to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts; and to live godly, righteously and soberly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

May I walk before them holily and unblameably—instructing them both by precept and example: directing and helping them in the way

of peace: and ever looking to the day when it may be said, "Here am I and the children that Thou hast given me."

To which bring Thou us, O our Father,
For Jesus' sake.



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